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The Secretary of Defense today announced establishment of the United States Military Assistance Command, Thailand, with the concurrence of the Government of Thailand. The new command will consist of all US military personnel in Thailand, including the Military Assistance Advisory Group.

The new command will be headed by General Paul D. Harkins, US Army, who will report directly to the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, Admiral H. D. Felt. This assignment is in addition to General Harkins' present duty as Commander of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. Establishment of the new command in no way alters the present command organization and mission in Vietnam.

Lieutenant General James L. Richardson, Jr., Deputy Commander in Chief, US Army, Pacific, has been designated to command the combat elements of General Harkins' new command.

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